CHAPTER **16**

Dance and Dance Education: Concepts, Professions, and Issues

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Questions

- **What was your first experience with dance? Dancing yourself? Watching dance? What made it a positive experience?**
- **Describe dance as cultural phenomenon. Why do you think dance does not get the same attention and recognition in society as does sport?**
- **Why does dance continue to be stereotyped as a movement form for girls and women?**

Objectives

- **Describe the differences between the various genres of dance.**
- **Describe the various systems through which dance is delivered.**
- **Articulate how dance is promoted by various allied professions.**
- **Understand the barriers to making dance more accessible to everyone.**

Introduction

- **Dance participation provides physical, mental, and social benefits for all age groups.**
- **Dance and dance education have endured many issues in schools, communities, and higher education settings during its development beginning in the 20th century to the present.**
- **Today, dance and dance education seem to stand at a crossroads for preparing teachers from different backgrounds to teach all students in all settings.**

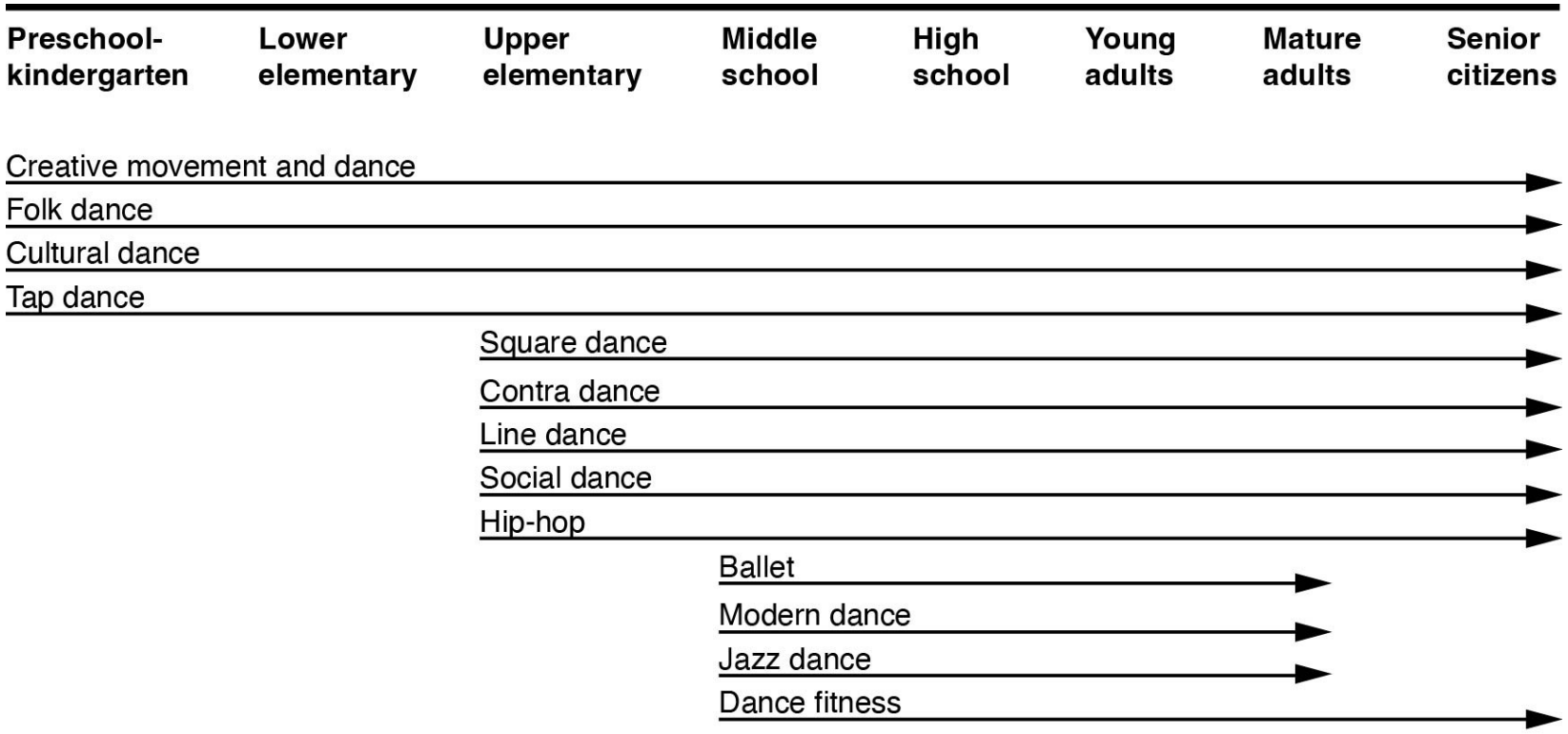
Defining Dance and Dance Education

- **Dance is the human body rhythmically moving through space and time with force, energy, or effort.**

- **Dance education is the teaching of a variety of forms of dance to students of all ages in education and community settings.**

- **Different settings and audiences require different emphases in dance education.**

Figure 16.1



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Four Categories of Dance

- **Creative movement and creative dance use the elements of dance to explore movement and develop dances.**
- **Recreational dance includes folk, cultural, and social dance forms.**
- **Concert dance forms span from classical to current dance forms performed as art or entertainment.**
- **Dance fitness incorporates movements and steps from recreational and concert dance forms.**

Dance Content Knowledge

- **Dance contains content knowledge from within dance (internal) and from associated disciplines such as movement sciences, physical education, and arts education (external).**

- **Content knowledge plays an integral or supportive role in the dance teaching and learning process.**

Dance Content Knowledge: Internal

- **Traditional elements of dance**
  - **Space**
  - **Time**
  - **Force or energy**
  - **Relationships**

- **Laban's elements of dance**
  - **Space**
  - **Time**
  - **Weight**
  - **Flow**

Dance Content Knowledge: External

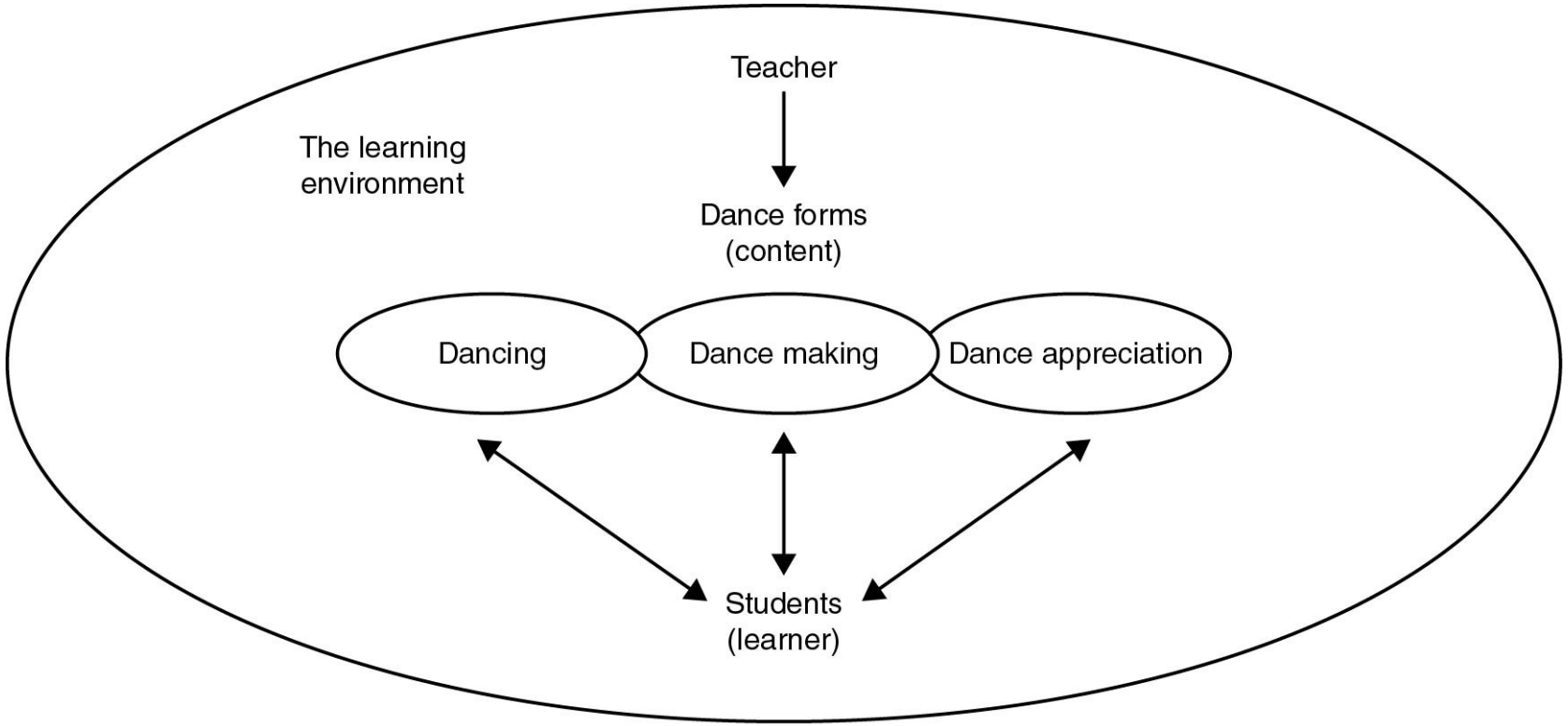
- **Supportive knowledge**
- **Dance training, conditioning, and wellness**
- **Technique and choreography**
- **Teaching methods and management**
- **Educational and brain-based theories**
- **Social and emotional development**
- **Artistic development and technology integration**

Teaching Dance in the 21st Century

- **Dance education is embedded in larger educational foundations.**

- **The dance teaching and learning model connects to 21st-century holistic education and shows teaching and learning from the viewpoint of the teacher and the student.**

Figure 16.2



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Educational Taxonomies

- **Psychomotor domain:** Learners engage the body and the mind, enabling movers and dancers to learn through their visual, auditory, and kinesthetic senses.
- **Cognitive domain:** This involves learners' intellectual capacities for actual, conceptual, procedural, and metacognitive knowledge dimensions.
- **Affective domain:** This includes learners' attitudes, responsibility, values, beliefs, and social attributes. It interconnects with models for social and emotional learning.

Holistic Dance Education and Pedagogy

- **Holistic dance education** embraces the learner's physical, mental, and social characteristics through participation in dance throughout the life span.

- **Holistic dance pedagogy** is the science and art of teaching movement and dance to create a movement-language connection for use in dancing, dance making, and critical thinking in dance.

21st-Century Skills and Dance Literacy

- **The 21st-Century Skills Map identifies the four Cs that cross disciplines.**
  - **Collaboration**
  - **Communication**
  - **Creativity**
  - **Critical Thinking**

- **Dance literacy involves using dance vocabulary to express the languages of dance and its processes of dancing, dance making, dance viewing, and critical analysis.**

Arts Literacy and Physical Literacy

- **Arts literacy is engaging in various art forms and their processes (creating, performing, responding, and connecting) to gain knowledge for application in dancing and dance making.**
- **Physical literacy is the foundation for developing movement skills, knowledge, and attitudes through the following:**
  - **Physical education**
  - **Fitness**
  - **Sports**
  - **Physical activity**

Media Literacy and Multiliteracies

- **Media literacy:** **Ability to access, analyze, and evaluate media content to create valid media messages through content, subjects, and art forms**

- **Multiliteracies:** **Gaining an in-depth understanding of your primary discipline and related disciplines and their languages, processes, and techniques, which allows you to translate and transfer knowledge from one discipline to another**

State and National Dance Standards

- **Dance standards at the national and state levels identify what students in dance should be able to do, study, and achieve.**
- **Standards delegate specific curricula and instructional activities to states, school districts, and teachers to achieve these standards.**
- **Dance standards might be embedded in the standards for a larger subject area such as physical education or fine arts.**

Infrastructure of Schools, Community Organizations, and Postsecondary Education

- **Preschool** movement and dance are integral to preparation for kindergarten.
- **K-12** delivers dance forms from the four categories to different age groups.
- **Community dance** organizations and businesses provide dance from preschool-aged children to senior citizens.
- **Postsecondary education** offers major or minor programs, basic instruction and university studies courses, and extracurricular organizations for recreation and fitness.

Allied Fields to Dance Education

Dance and dance education have expanded into a number of allied fields.

- **Dance for athletes**
- **Dance fitness classes**
- **Health care movement and recreational therapy programs**
- **Dance sports**
- **Recreational dance forms**
- **Physical activity**

Access to Dance Education

- **Children with disabilities in K-12 school education**
- **Dance classes and performances in community organizations**
- **Attracting and retaining boys' participation in dance through dance for athletes courses and other sports training programs**

Continuing Issues and Future Directions

- **Teacher preparation in K-12 education**
- **Professional development for teachers who teach dance in physical education, fine arts, and allied fields**
- **Availability of quality professional learning opportunities for all dance teachers based on dance education knowledge and skills**

These are needed so that dance teachers can create a strong, singular voice for dance education.

Activity

- **In a short narrative, have students describe their absolute peak experience as a dancer.**
- **In groups of 6, have students develop a dance that can be performed publicly. Have them identify the responsibilities associated with the numerous “nonperforming” typically associated with setting and performing a dance.**
- **Have students connect with a community dance program and write a grant to a local agency supporting the performing arts to support the community program.**

Summary

- **Dance and dance education are joined through the transmission of knowledge, understanding, and performance.**
- **Dance content knowledge embraces both internal and external content.**
- **Teaching dance in the 21st century connects educational and dance content knowledge seamlessly for a holistic dance pedagogy and dance education.**

(continued)

Summary *(continued)*

- **Major issues in dance education cover a variety of themes across sectors, among teachers, and within allied fields.**
- **Critical issues in dance education are teacher preparation and professional development.**
- **Future directions in dance education focus on connecting all dance teachers to create a stronger presence and a voice for dance educators.**
- **Tasks/Assignments:**